likely to be delinquent than those headed by older people (Canner & Luckett, 1990, 1991; Sullivan & Fisher, 1988; cited in Godwin, [year], p. 68). In their study of credit card use by college students, Staten and Baron (2002, p. ii) found higher delinquency rates among active students compared to older adults, but larger dollar charge-offs among the latter because student balances tend to be lower. We measure age of the head of the household—the person who "handles most of the household's financial business"—as a continuous variable and expect age to be negatively related to poor credit practices.

Number of Children. As suggested above, other things equal, we expect debt to be positively related to family size. We measure the number of children living in the household who are under 18 years of age.

Household Income. Our low-income population is divided into five categories: under $10,000 (the reference category), $10,000 to $15,000, $15,000 to $20,000, $20,000 to $25,000, and $25,000 to $30,000. While there is little empirical research of credit use among low-income populations, and a mixed record regarding the role that household income plays in debt management, on balance we would expect household income to be inversely related to credit difficulties.

Employment. In addition to income, our models also control for employment status, measured by the number of working adults in the household. We include four categories: no employed adult, one adult working part-time, one full-time worker (or two part-time workers, although very rare), and more than one full-time worker (reference category).

Savings. Saving can take many forms, from "mattress money" to stocks, bonds, and jewelry, and is measured in NCFSS in three categories: regular saver (contributes to savings monthly), irregular saver (has savings, but does not contribute monthly—the reference category), and without savings of any kind. Savers—regular and other—should exhibit fewer credit problems than non-savers, both because of the option to draw down